

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 043981
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE

APPROVED BY ARA - MR. MCNEIL

S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----093829 181311Z/43

O 181250Z FEB 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACIT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043981

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SHUM OAS VE NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO PEREZ LETTER ON NICARAGUA

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT PEREZ FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1978.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTER OF
JANUARY 31. I WANT TO AFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE
I ATTACH TO OUR AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON
ALL MATTERS, BUT ESPECIALLY ON THE DEFENSE AND
ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I HAVE BEEN GIVING
CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR LETTER.

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TUMULTUOUS SITUATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN NICARAGUA. THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES AT STAKE: THE STATUS
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OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE NICARAGUAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA WAS A MOVING ONE. WE ARE IN COMPLETE

AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR AN URGENT VISIT

BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.
MY AMBASSADOR IN MANAGUA HAS INFORMED PRESIDENT
SOMOZA OF OUR CONCERN AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT
THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA INVITE THE COMMISSION
FOR AN URGENT VISIT. AFTER RECEIVING YOUR
LETTER, I INSTRUCTED MY AMBASSADOR TO SPEAK TO
PRESIDENT SOMOZA AGAIN AND REPEAT OUR REQUEST.
IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE SOON,
OUR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSULT ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE
WAY TO SECURE PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S COOPERATION.

ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN
NICARAGUA, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS
WITH YOU. I DEEPLY RESPECT YOUR STRONG FEELINGS
ABOUT THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL AND DEMOCRATIC
POLITICAL CHANGE IN NICARAGUA.

WE CAN AND WILL VOICE OUR PREFERENCE FOR
INCREASED DEMOCRATIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES,
AND HAVE DONE SO REGARDING NICARAGUA. WE CAN
AND WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT BASIC HUMAN
RIGHTS AND TO SHAPE OUR POLICIES TOWARD THIS
END. BUT WE WILL NOT INTERVENE OR IMPOSE
SPECIFIC POLITICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRIES. I KNOW THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS
WILL ACT AS ONE ON THESE ISSUES.

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IN THIS PERIOD OF POLITICAL CRISIS IN NICARAGUA,
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED NEW ARMS
TRANSFERS AND WITHHELD SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO THE SOMOZA REGIME, AND HE IS CLEARLY AWARE
THAT HE IS ON HIS OWN. THOUGH OUR SYMPATHIES
ARE CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF STEADY EVOLUTION TOWARD
GREATER DEMOCRACY, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE
NICARAGUANS CAN ONLY BUILD A VIABLE AND LASTING
DEMOCRACY THAT RESPONDS TO THEIR OWN PARTICULAR
NEEDS, IF THEY UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE THE TASK
THEMSELVES.

BECAUSE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND LONG EXPERIENCE
WITH NICARAGUAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICS,
I VALUE YOUR COUNSEL AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS.
I AGREE THAT WE CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA AND ELSEWHERE,

AND I AM PROUD THAT WE SPEAK TOGETHER ON THIS.

SINCERELY,

SIGNED JIMMY CARTER

HIS EXCELLENCY
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
CARACAS

P.S. (HANDWRITTEN) BEST WISHES. I LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU IN CARACAS. END TEXT OF LETTER.

WHEN YOU DELIVER THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT PEREZ, THE
PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE YOU TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ORAL
MESSAGE: "WE SINCERELY REGRET THE DELAY. WE FULLY UNDER-
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STAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE. INDEED THE RESPONSE
WAS DELAYED PRECISELY BECAUSE YOUR LETTER RAISED MANY VERY
DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, WHICH LED US TO REEXAMINE OUR LONG-
STANDING POLICY TO NICARAGUA AND TO THE ENTIRE QUESTION
OF THE APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS."

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PAGE 01 STATE 043981
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:LLEVIN
APPROVED BY: ARA:JABUSNELL
S/S- O DS
-----099117 182229Z /65
O 182045Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043981

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION CARACAS FROM SECSTATE DTD 18 FEB 1978 QTE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 043981

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780236/aaaabefz.tel
Line Count: 294
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 3544694
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Subject: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO PEREZ LETTER ON NICARAGUA PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT PEREZ FROM PRESIDENT CARTER DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1978.
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PPDC, VE, NU, US, OAS
To: CARACAS
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